

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The basic financial statements of the City of Asheville (the “City”) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The City’s significant accounting policies are described below.

A. Reporting Entity

The City of Asheville is a municipal corporation that is governed by an elected mayor and a six-member council. As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the City, its component units and legally separate entities for which the City is financially accountable. Blended component units, although legally separate entities, are in substance, part of the City's operations and, as such, are included in the reporting entity. The discretely presented component unit below is reported in a separate column in the City's financial statements in order to emphasize that it is legally separate from the City.

Included within the reporting entity:

Asheville Board of Alcoholic Control (the “ABC Board”). The Asheville Board of Alcoholic Control was organized under the provisions of House Bill No. 1124 of the North Carolina General Assembly and implemented by a citywide election held November 14, 1947. The local ABC Board may borrow money in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 18B-702(b) and the City's governing body who appoint all three ABC Board members shall in no way be held responsible for the debts of the ABC Board. The ABC Board is required by state statute to distribute its surpluses to the General Fund of the City, which represents a financial benefit to the City. Therefore, the ABC Board is reported as a discretely presented component unit. Complete financial statements for the ABC Board may be obtained from the Asheville Board of Alcoholic Control's administrative offices at 1 Cherry Street North, Asheville, NC 28801.

Asheville Public Financing Corporation (the “APFC”). The Asheville Public Financing Corporation is a non-profit corporation chartered in 1991 with the specific purpose of assisting the City of Asheville in various types of financing arrangements. The Corporation is governed by a board of directors whose three members serve for one year or until successors are elected. One of the three members is appointed by the city manager. The board of directors elects the remaining directors. The Corporation has no assets, liabilities, revenues or expenses. All rights, title and interest to all financing contracts with the City have been assigned to various bank trustees. All financing arrangements with the City have been disclosed in the accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

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Asheville Claims Corporation (the “ACC”). The Asheville Claims Corporation is a non-profit corporation chartered in 1993 with the specific purpose of assisting the City of Asheville in risk management and the administration of claims. The ACC is governed by a board of directors whose three members serve for one year or until successors are elected. One of the three members is appointed by the city manager. The board of directors elects the remaining members. The ACC has no assets, liabilities, revenues or expenses. All rights, title and interest to the claims contract with the City have been assigned to a bank trustee. All financing arrangements with the City have been disclosed in the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

B. Related Organizations

Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (“Housing Authority”). The Mayor appoints the five-member Board of the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville. The City is accountable for the Housing Authority because it appoints the governing board; however, the City is not financially accountable for the Housing Authority.

Asheville City School System (“School System”). The Asheville City Council appoints the five-member Board of the Asheville City School System. The City is accountable for the School System because it appoints a majority of the governing board; however, the City is not financially accountable for the School System.

C. Jointly Governed Organizations

Asheville Regional Airport Authority. The City, in conjunction with Buncombe County, participates in a regional airport. Each participating government appoints three members and the six appointees then appoint one additional member to make up the seven-member board. The City has no obligation to fund any deficits, any claim on assets or obligation for liabilities. The Authority is included in Buncombe County’s Financial Statements as a discretely presented component unit.

D. Measurement Focus Basis of Accounting & Financial Presentation

The accounts of the City are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts comprised of assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses, as applicable. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstration compliance with finance related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements. In accordance with North Carolina Statutes, all funds of the City are maintained during the year using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*, as are the proprietary fund financial statements. The fiduciary fund (agency fund) has no measurement focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

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Non-exchange transactions, in which the City gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants and donations. On an accrual basis property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Amounts reported as program revenues include: 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the City considers revenue to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period, except for property taxes. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds from general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the City's enterprise funds are charges to customers for sales and services. The City also recognizes as operating revenue the portion of tap fees intended to recover the cost of connecting new customers to the water and sewer system. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administration expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

At June 30, taxes receivable are materially past due and are not considered to be an available resource to finance the operations of the current year. Also, as of January 1, 1993, State law altered the procedures for the assessment and collection of property taxes on registered motor vehicles in North Carolina. Effective with this change in the law, Buncombe County is responsible for billing and collecting the property taxes on registered motor vehicles on behalf of all municipalities in the County, including the City of Asheville. For motor vehicles registered under the staggered system, property taxes are due the first day of the fourth month after the vehicles are registered. The billed taxes are applicable to the fiscal year in which they become due. Therefore, the City's vehicle taxes for vehicles registered in Buncombe County from March 2007 through February 2008 apply to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. Uncollected taxes that were billed this period are shown as a receivable in these financial statements and are offset by deferred revenues.

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Sales taxes collected and held by the State at year-end on behalf of the City are recognized as revenue. Intergovernmental revenues and sales and services are not susceptible to accrual because generally they are not measurable until received in cash. Grant revenues, which are unearned at year-end, are recorded as deferred revenues. Under the terms of the grant agreements, the City funds certain programs in combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical block grants and general revenues. Thus, when program expenditures are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net assets available to finance the program. Excluding debt funding, it is the City's policy to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs, followed by categorical block grants, and then by general revenues.

In the event that debt proceeds are included, the City will spend debt proceeds first unless there is an agreement tying specific expenditures to grant proceeds. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the City's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources, as they are needed.

As permitted by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the City and the ABC Board have elected to apply only applicable FASB Statements and Interpretations issued on or before November 30, 1989, that do not contradict GASB pronouncements in its accounting and reporting practices for its government-wide and proprietary operations.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The City reports the following major governmental fund:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the City. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in other funds. The primary revenue sources are ad valorem taxes, various other taxes and licenses and State-shared revenues. The primary expenditures are for public safety, streets and highways, sanitation, recycling, parks and recreation, general government services, risk management and benefits, information technology and debt service for the payment of general long-term principal, interest, and related costs.

The City reports the following non-major governmental funds:

Special Revenue Funds - Special Revenue Funds are used to account for specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. The City has the following Special Revenue Funds: Grant Programs, Community Development, Section 108 Rehabilitation, Affordable Home Ownership, and Housing Partnership.

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Capital Project Funds - The Capital Project Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition and/or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary funds) and infrastructure. The City has four Capital Project Funds: Federal Capital Projects, General Capital Projects, Street/Sidewalk Capital Improvements and Sewer Capital Projects.

Perpetual Care Permanent Fund – This fund is used to account for perpetual care of the City's Riverside Cemetery.

The City reports the following major proprietary fund:

Water Resources – The Water Resources Fund is an enterprise fund used to account for operations and maintenance of the City's water system that includes operation of two water treatment plants. This fund also covers acquisition and/or construction of major utility capital facilities and infrastructure, as well as the debt service for the payment of utility long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs which are accounted for in sub-funds.

The City reports the following non-major enterprise funds: Civic Center, Parking Services, Festivals, Mass Transit, Stormwater and Golf Course.

Internal Service Fund – The Internal Service Fund is a proprietary fund used to account for the accumulation and allocation of costs associated with the City's self-insurance program.

Additionally the City reports the following fund types:

Agency Fund – Agency funds are custodial in nature and do not involve the measurement of operating results. The City maintains the Civic Center Agency Fund for the purpose of segregating the box office activities for the various promoters.

E. Budgetary Data

The City's budgets are adopted as required by the North Carolina General Statutes. An annual budget is adopted for the General Fund, Community Development Fund, Water Resources Fund and the other non-major Enterprise Funds. Multi-year budgets are adopted for the non-major Governmental Funds, except for the Community Development Fund, and Enterprise Capital Projects Funds. All annual appropriations lapse at the fiscal-year end. As required by State law [N. C. General Statute 159-26(d)], the City maintains encumbrance accounts, which are considered to be "budgetary accounts". Encumbrances outstanding at year-end represent the estimated amounts of the expenditures ultimately to result if unperformed contracts in progress at year-end are completed. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end do not constitute expenditures or liabilities. These encumbrances outstanding are reported as "reserved for encumbrances" in the fund balance section of the balance sheet and will be charged against the subsequent year's budget.

All budgets are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting. N.C. General Statute 159-13(a)(3) requires the budget ordinance make appropriations by department, function or project. The

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City has defined its annual operating funds to be functions; therefore, expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the fund level for all annual operating funds. Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the project level for all multi-year project funds. Amendments are required for any revisions that alter the total fund or project budget and must be approved by City Council. The City internally manages expenditures on a line item and departmental basis and although not legally required, budget amendments may be required between line items and between departments of the same function. The Budget department must approve all of these internal budget amendments and some of these amendments are forwarded to the City Manager for additional approval. During the year numerous budget amendments to the original budget were necessary. The budget ordinance must be adopted by July 1 of the fiscal year or the governing board must adopt an interim budget that covers that time until the annual ordinance can be adopted.

F. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets/Fund Balance

1. Deposits and investments

The deposits of the City and the ABC Board are secured as required by North Carolina General Statute ("G. S.") 159-31. The City may establish official depositories with any bank or savings association whose principal office is located in North Carolina. The City and the ABC Board may establish time deposits in the form of NOW and SUPERNOW accounts, money market accounts, and certificates of deposits.

G.S. 159-30 (c) authorizes the City and the ABC Board to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury; obligations of any agency of the United State of America, provided the payment of the interest and principal of such obligations is fully guaranteed by the United States; obligations of the State of North Carolina; bonds and notes of any North Carolina local government or public authority; obligations of certain non-guaranteed federal agencies; certain high quality issues of commercial paper and bankers' acceptances; and the North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT), an SEC registered (2a-7) mutual fund.

The City and the ABC Board's investments with a maturity of more than one year at acquisition and non-money market investments are reported at fair value as determined by quoted market prices.

The securities of the NCCMT Cash Portfolio are valued at fair value, which is the NCCMT's share price. The City intends, and has the ability, to hold all securities to maturity.

In accordance with State law, the City and the ABC Board have invested in securities, which are callable, and which provide for periodic interest rate increases in specific increments until maturity. These investments are reported at fair value as determined by quoted market prices.

The City pools moneys from all funds, except unspent bond proceeds, to facilitate disbursement and investment and maximize investment income. The City and the ABC Board consider demand deposits and investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less, which are not limited as to use, to be cash and cash equivalents.

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2. Receivables and payables

According to the North Carolina General Statutes, ad valorem taxes levied on July 1 beginning of the fiscal year, are due September 1, but interest and penalties do not accrue until the following January 6, the lien date.

Property taxes on certain registered motor vehicles are assessed and collected throughout the year. The taxes are based on the assessed values as of January 1, 2007.

Within the fund financials ad valorem taxes receivable are not accrued as revenue because the amount is not considered "available." At June 30, taxes receivable are significantly past due and are not considered to be an available resource to finance the operations of the subsequent year. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America state that property tax revenues, which are measurable but not available, should be recorded as unearned revenues. The receivable amount is reduced by an allowance for doubtful accounts and an amount equal to the net receivable is included in the governmental balance sheet and the statement of net assets. Any property taxes collected in advance of the fiscal year to which they apply are recorded as unearned revenues.

An allowance for doubtful accounts is maintained on the ad valorem taxes receivable as described above. The City also maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts for water service accounts receivable, stormwater accounts receivable and other miscellaneous receivables.

3. Inventories and prepaids

Inventories are determined by physical count and valued at cost (using the first-in, first-out method). Inventories in the governmental funds consist of expendable supplies held for consumption. The costs thereof have been recorded at the time items were purchased. Expenditure occurs when items are issued from inventory. Inventories in the non-major enterprise funds consist of materials and supplies held for subsequent use.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are reported as prepaids in both government-wide and fund financial statements and are expended/expensed as balances are used.

4. Restricted assets

Certain cash balances are held as restricted. Restricted cash in the General Fund relates to the City's self-insurance program and are only available to pay claims and unspent debt proceeds. Restricted cash in the Water Resources Fund relates to unspent debt proceeds and is only available for specific projects. Restricted cash in the non-major governmental funds relates to cash held in trust to be loaned out under the City's Section 108 Rehabilitation Loan program and perpetual care of the City's cemetery and unspent debt proceeds.

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5. Capital assets

Capital assets, which include land, buildings, equipment, vehicles and infrastructure (e.g., water & sewer lines, water tanks, roads, sidewalks and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets (not including general infrastructure) are defined by the City as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. General infrastructure assets are defined by the City as assets with an initial cost of more than \$50,000. Assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Governmental infrastructure assets (roads, sidewalks, bridges, etc.) acquired prior to July 1, 2003, consist of assets acquired or that received substantial improvements subsequent to July 1, 1980, and are reported at estimated historical cost using deflated replacement costs. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized.

Any interest incurred during the construction phase of proprietary fund type capital assets is reflected in the capitalized value of the asset constructed. Capital assets of the City and the ABC Board are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimates useful lives:

<u>Capital asset</u>	<u>Life</u>
Machinery and equipment	3-15 years
Building and improvements	20-50 years
Infrastructure	25-50 years

6. Compensated absences

The vacation policy of the City provides for the accumulation of up to a maximum of 40 days earned vacation leave, with such leave being fully vested when earned. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide, proprietary fund, and component unit financial statements. The City has assumed a last in first out method of using compensated time. The portion of that time that is estimated to be used in the next fiscal year has been shown as due within one year in note 7-H. ABC Board employees may accumulate up to 30 days earned vacation and such leave is fully vested when earned.

The City and the ABC Board's sick leave policy provides for an unlimited accumulation of earned sick leave. Sick leave does not vest, but any unused sick leave accumulated at the time of retirement may be used in the determination of length of service for retirement benefit purposes. Since neither of the two entities is obligated for the accumulated sick leave until it is actually taken, no liability for sick leave has been recorded.

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7. Long-term obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and the proprietary fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable

governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund statement of net assets. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight line method of amortization. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

8. Net Assets/Fund Balances

Net assets in government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are classified as invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted; and unrestricted. Restricted net assets represent constraints on resources that are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or imposed by law through state statute.

In the governmental fund financial statements, reservations of the fund balance represent amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

State law [G.S. 159-13 (b)(16)] restricts appropriation of fund balance for the subsequent year's budget to an amount not to exceed the sum of cash and investments minus the sum of liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues arising from cash receipts as those amounts at the close of the fiscal year preceding in the budget year.

The governmental fund types classify fund balances as follows:

Reserved

Reserved for Inventories – portion of fund balance that is not available for appropriation because it represents the year-end balance of inventories, which are not expendable available resources.

Reserved for Encumbrances – portion of fund balance available for appropriation to pay for commitments relating to unperformed contracts and purchase orders.

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Reserved for Housing Partnership – portion of fund balance that is not available for appropriation because it is reserved for the City's Affordable Housing Program.

Reserved by State Statue – portion of fund balance not available for appropriation after consideration of other reservations of fund balance. G.S. 159-13(b)(16) restricts appropriation of fund balance or fund equity to an amount not to exceed the sum of cash and investments minus the sum of liabilities,

encumbrances, and deferred revenues arising from cash receipts as these amounts stand at the close of the fiscal year preceding the budget year.

Reserved for Perpetual Care – portion of fund balance available for appropriation to pay for maintenance of the City's cemetery.

Unreserved

Designated for Capital Reserve – portion of total fund balance available for appropriation, which has been designated for governmental capital projects.

Designated for Law Enforcement Special Separation Allowance – portion of total fund balance, which has been designated for the actuarially determined un-funded portion of the law enforcement officers' special separation allowance.

Undesignated - portion of total fund balance for appropriation, which is uncommitted at year-end.

9. Reclassification

The City's risk management activities were reported in the General Fund last year and the IBNR was reported as long-term debt in the City's governmental activities. Effective July 1, 2007 the City began reporting these activities in an internal service fund. The effect of this reclassification has no effect on net assets.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS
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All deposits of the City and the ABC Board are either insured or collateralized by using one of two methods. Under the Dedicated Method, all deposits that exceed the federal depository insurance coverage level are collateralized with securities held by the City's or the ABC Board's agents in these units' names. Under the Pooling Method, which is a collateral pool, all uninsured deposits are collateralized with securities held by the State Treasurer's agent in the name of the State Treasurer. Since the State Treasurer is acting in a fiduciary capacity for the City and the ABC Board, these deposits are considered to be held by the City's and the ABC Board's agents in their names. The amount of the pledged collateral is based on an approved averaging method for non-interest bearing deposits and the actual current balance for interest-bearing deposits.

Depositories using the Pooling Method report to the State Treasurer the adequacy of their pooled collateral covering uninsured deposits. The State Treasurer does not confirm this information with the City, the ABC Board, or the escrow agent. Because of the inability to measure the exact

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amounts of collateral pledged for the City and the ABC Board under the Pooling Method, the potential exists for under-collateralization, and this risk may increase in periods of high cash flows. However, the State Treasurer of North Carolina enforces strict standards of financial stability for each depository that collateralizes public deposits under the Pooling Method. The City and the ABC Board have no policy regarding custodial credit risk for deposits.

At June 30, 2008, the City's deposits had a carrying amount of \$10,994,105 and a bank balance of \$14,638,030. Of the bank balance, \$14,038,030 was covered by collateral held under the Pooling Method and \$600,000 was covered by federal depository insurance. The City also had \$66,350 in petty cash at year-end. The carrying amount for the ABC Board was \$2,157,158 and a bank balance of \$2,164,731. Of the bank balance, \$1,864,731 was covered by collateral held under the Pooling Method and \$300,000 was covered by Federal depository insurance.

The calculation of realized gains is independent of the calculation of the net increase/decrease in the fair value of investments that have been held in more than one fiscal year and sold in the current may have been recognized as an increase or decrease in the fair value of investments, reported in the prior year. The net decrease in fair value during 2008 for the City was \$327,692. This amount takes into account all changes in fair value (including purchases, sales and maturities) that occurred during the year. The unrealized gain on investments held at year end was \$16,171.

As of June 30, 2008 the City had the following investments and maturities:

Investment Type	Fair Value	0-6 Months	6-12 Months	1-3 Years	3+ years
US Government Securities	\$22,764,774	\$ 4,419,207	\$ 10,035	\$ 2,000,000	\$16,325,532
US Government Agencies	32,153,357	6,412,939	988,750	18,284,068	6,457,600
Commercial Paper	15,136,444	15,136,444	-	-	-
NC Cap Mgt Trust-Cash Portfolio	33,009,271	33,009,271	-	-	-
Escrow Money Markets	1,218,827	1,218,827	-	-	-
NC Cap Mgt Trust-Term Portfolio	2,453,765	-	2,453,765	-	-
Banker's Acceptance	2,970,130	2,970,130	-	-	-
Certificate of Deposit	483,457	483,457	-	-	-
NCSE AA	3,600,000	-	-	-	3,600,000
Total	\$113,790,025	\$63,650,275	\$3,462,550	\$20,294,068	\$26,383,132

*Because the NC Capital Management Trust Term Portfolio had a weighted average maturity of 0.9 years, it was presented as an investment with a maturity of 6-12 months.

Interest Rate Risk. The City has no formal investment policy regarding interest rate risk. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates, the City's investment policy requires purchases of securities to be laddered with staggered maturity dates and limits all securities to a final maturity of no more than six years.

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The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) instruments in the portfolio have final stated maturities ranging from 2015 to 2036. Historically they could be redeemed at par and the interest rate reset every 7, 28 or 35 days making the effective maturity date the next reset date, until February 2008 when the auctions began failing. At that time the instruments became illiquid and there was no secondary market.

Credit Risk. The City has no formal policy regarding credit risk, but has internal management procedures that limits the City's investments to the provisions of G.S. 159-30 and restricts the purchase of securities to the highest possible ratings whenever particular types of securities are rated. The City's investments in US Agencies (Federal Home Loan Bank) are rated AAA by Standard & Poor's and Aaa by Moody's Investors Service. The City's investments in the NC Capital Management Trust Cash Portfolio carried a credit rating of AAAM by Standard & Poor's as of June 30, 2007. The City's investment in the NC Capital Management Trust Term Portfolio is unrated. The Term Portfolio is authorized to invest in obligations of the US government and agencies, obligations of the State of North Carolina, bonds and notes of North Carolina local governments/public authorities and in high grade money market instruments as permitted under North Carolina G.S. 159-30 as amended.

The City's investments in the NC State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) carried a credit rating of AAA by Standard & Poor's as of June 30, 2008.

Custodial Credit Risk. For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The City's investments are insured or registered or held by the City or its agent in the City's name. The City has no policy on custodial risk but management procedures are that the City shall utilize a third party custodial agent for book entry transactions, all of which will be held in the City's name.

Concentration of Credit Risk. The City does not limit the amount of investment in any one issuer. More than 5% of the City's total investments are in Federal Home Loan Bank securities, representing 12% of the total investments and Federal National Mortgage Association securities, representing 6% of the total investments and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation securities representing 8% of the total investments.

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NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES AND UNEARNED ASSETS

Receivables as of year-end for the City's fund financials and government-wide totals, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	General Fund	Non-major Gov't Funds	Accrual Adjustments	Gov't Activities	Business-Type Activities
Customers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,699,078
Property Taxes	894,071	-	-	894,071	-
Due From Other Governments	1,092,282	7,112,077	-	8,204,359	1,327,426
Accounts Receivable	3,65,758	10,432	1,066,472	4,742,662	1,125,109
Loans Receivable	-	1,144,717	-	1,144,717	-
Less: Allowance	(867,174)	-	-	(867,174)	(286,591)
Receivables (Net)	\$ 4,784,937	\$ 8,267,226	\$ 1,066,472	\$ 14,118,635	\$ 7,865,022

In conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, revenues that are measurable but not available are reported as unearned revenues in the fund statements. In addition, revenues collected in advance of the fiscal year to which they apply are reported as unearned assets.

At the June 30, 2008, the various components of deferred/unearned revenues were as follows:

	General Fund	Non-major Gov't Funds	Accrual Adjustments	Gov't Activities	Business-Type Activities
Property Taxes	\$ 198,072	\$ -	\$ (198,072)	\$ -	\$ -
Prepaid Taxes	215,149	-	-	215,149	-
Loans	-	1,144,717	(1,144,717)	-	-
Grants	-	2,540,424	(2,540,424)	-	-
Other	37,670	-	-	37,670	405,844
Total	\$ 450,891	\$ 3,685,141	\$ (3,883,213)	\$ 252,819	\$ 405,844

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NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2008 was as follows:

	Beginning Balances	Additions	Retirements	Transfers	Ending Balances
Governmental Activities:					
Capital assets, <u>Non-depreciable:</u>					
Land	\$ 27,335,953	\$ 2,816,065	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,152,018
Construction in Progress	14,906,457	3,515,649	(19,694)	-	18,402,412
Total Capital Assets, Non-depreciable	42,242,410	6,331,714	(19,694)	-	48,554,430
Capital Assets, <u>Depreciable:</u>					
Building & Improvements	45,379,341	47,240	-	-	45,426,581
Machinery & Equipment	31,075,038	7,068,853	(968,235)	152,534	37,328,190
Infrastructure	204,948,506	390,453	-	-	205,338,959
Total Capital Assets, Depreciable	281,402,885	7,506,546	(968,235)	152,534	288,093,730
Less Accumulated <u>Depreciation For:</u>					
Buildings & Improvements	16,305,752	1,683,485	-	-	17,989,237
Machinery & Equipment	18,845,835	3,147,658	(763,480)	134,797	21,364,810
Infrastructure	98,106,319	9,418,783	-	-	107,525,102
Total Accumulated Depreciation	133,257,906	14,249,926	(763,480)	134,797	146,879,149
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	148,144,979				141,214,581
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	\$ 190,387,389				\$ 189,769,011

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

	Beginning Balances	Additions	Retirements	Transfers	Ending Balances
Business-Type Activities:					
<u>Capital Assets, Non-depreciable:</u>					
Land	\$ 10,271,758	\$ 9,153	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,280,911
Construction in Progress	7,787,702	20,558,940	(3,793,406)	-	24,553,236
Total Capital Assets, Non-depreciable	<u>18,059,460</u>	<u>20,68,093</u>	<u>(3,793,406)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,834,147</u>
<u>Capital Assets, Depreciable:</u>					
Building & Improvements	80,604,533	-	-	-	80,604,533
Machinery & Equipment	16,576,270	2,961,675	(181,483)	(152,534)	19,203,925
Infrastructure	112,545,959	5,722,799	(57,364)	-	118,211,394
Total Capital Assets, Depreciable	<u>209,726,762</u>	<u>8,684,474</u>	<u>(238,847)</u>	<u>(152,534)</u>	<u>218,019,855</u>
<u>Less Accumulated Depreciation For:</u>					
Buildings & Improvements	28,865,391	2,064,363	-	-	30,929,754
Machinery & Equipment	11,805,841	1,279,454	(160,807)	(134,797)	12,789,691
Infrastructure	39,829,722	2,387,385	(4,082)	-	42,213,025
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>80,500,954</u>	<u>5,731,202</u>	<u>(164,889)</u>	<u>(134,797)</u>	<u>85,932,470</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>129,225,808</u>				<u>132,087,385</u>
Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 147,285,268</u>				<u>\$ 170,714,938</u>

During the year the City recorded capital contributions in the amount of \$2,182,317 which represents the value of water lines turned over to the City for operation from completed housing developments. This is considered a non-cash capital related financing activity for the statement of cash flows.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

Depreciation expenses were charged to functions of the City as follows:

Governmental Activities:

General Governmental	\$ 587,899
Public Safety	2,014,962
Highways & Streets	10,313,398
Cultural & Recreational	<u>1,333,667</u>
Total depreciation expense-Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 14,249,926</u></u>

Business-type Activities:

Water Resources	\$ 4,327,033
Non-major Enterprise Funds	<u>1,404,169</u>
Total depreciation expense-Business-type Activities	<u><u>\$ 5,731,202</u></u>

The City has numerous active construction projects as of June 30, 2008. These projects include new street construction, widening and improvements of existing streets, new parks and related facilities, fire stations, fire trucks and pumpers, water system improvements and new construction, water plant expansions and other City facilities and equipment. The amount the City was contractually committed to spend at June 30, 2008 was \$1,268,285 and \$33,975,505 for governmental activities and business-type activities, respectively.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND RECEIVABLES, PAYABLES AND TRANSFERS

The composition of interfund balances as of June 30, 2008 is as follows:

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General	Grant Programs	\$ 400,151
	Affordable Home	21,381
	Section 108 Rehabilitation	45,776
	Festival Fund	1,244,915
Total		<u>\$ 1,712,223</u>

The outstanding balances between funds result mainly from the time lag between the dates that
(1) interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur,
(2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system and (3) payments between funds are made.

The amounts payable to the General Fund relate to working capital loans made to the funds listed above.

Due to primary government and operating unit

Receivable entity	Payable Entity	Amount
Primary Government	Component unit-ABC Board	<u>\$ 275,397</u>

The amount payable to the general fund is a result of timing of funds due.

Interfund
transfers:

Transfer Out	Transfers In				Total
	General Fund	Non-Major Governmental	Internal Service	Non-Major Enterprise	
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 4,775,494	\$ 9,363,700	\$ 2,700,685	\$ 16,839,879
Non-Major Governmental	74,368	66,500	-	-	140,868
Internal Service	240,055	-	-	-	240,055
Non-Major Enterprise	-	-	-	248,116	248,116
Total	<u>\$ 314,423</u>	<u>\$ 4,841,994</u>	<u>\$ 9,363,700</u>	<u>\$ 2,948,801</u>	<u>\$ 17,468,918</u>

Transfers are used to move unrestricted general fund reserves to finance various programs that the government must account for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations, including amounts provided as subsidies or matching funds for various programs. Transfers to the internal service fund represent fund reserves used to pay claims accumulated in the general fund in prior years.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

NOTE 6 - LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS

A. Installment Financing Contracts. The City has entered into various installment financing contracts with the Asheville Public Financing Corporation, a blended component unit, for renovation and construction of municipal facilities. These contracts were funded by the execution and delivery of Certificates of Participation and certain lease contracts. The outstanding contracts at June 30, 2008 are as follows:

	Interest Rates	Date Issued	Date Series Matures	Amount of Original Issue	Balance Outstanding June 30, 2008
Governmental Activities:					
Municipal Building Series 1997-A	4.00-5.13	11/1/1997	6/1/2018	14,045,000	\$ 8,660,000
Refunding Series 1997-B	4.00-5.00	11/1/1997	6/1/2011	3,480,000	1,185,000
Fire Stations & Equip. Series 2006	3.92	6/28/2006	6/28/2021	8,030,300	6,358,793
Total Governmental					<u>16,203,793</u>
Business-type Activities:					
Parking Services Series 1992	5.00-6.50	2/15/1992	2/1/2008	5,385,000	-
Stormwater Series 2006	3.92	6/28/2006	6/28/2011	215,000	129,000
Total Business-type Activities					<u>129,000</u>
Total Installment Financing Contracts					<u>\$ 22,691,586</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for Installment Financing Contracts for the governmental activities and for Business-type activities, are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Governmental Activities		Business type Activities	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2009	\$ 1,895,753	\$ 748,362	\$ 43,000	\$ 4,954
2010	1,950,753	663,334	43,000	3,302
2011	2,005,753	575,185	43,000	1,652
2012	1,180,153	483,698	-	-
2013	1,220,153	428,054	-	-
2014-2018	6,795,765	1,226,558	-	-
2019-2021	1,155,463	90,588	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 16,203,793</u>	<u>\$ 4,215,779</u>	<u>\$ 129,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,908</u>

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

B. Installment Purchase Contracts. The City has entered into installment purchase contracts with various agencies for the purchase of assorted assets. These obligations are considered a limited obligation of the City and are secured by the assets themselves.

	Interest Rates	Date Issued	Date Series Mature	Amount of Original Issue	Balance Outstanding at June 30, 2008
Trucks and cans	5.12%	12/9/1999	12/9/2009	\$ 359,230	\$ 36,135
Fire Trucks	3.06	11/29/2002	11/15/2012	1,546,308	695,840
Trucks and carts	2.35	4/30/2004	4/30/2009	741,577	155,054
Fire and Sanitation trucks	2.49	6/25/2008	6/1/2013	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total Installment Purchase Contracts					<u>\$ 5,887,029</u>

Annual maturities on all installment purchase contracts for the governmental activities, are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Governmental Activities	
	Principal	Interest
2009	\$ 1,286,924	\$ 134,683
2010	1,141,368	110,426
2011	1,153,449	80,963
2012	1,178,474	51,207
2013	1,126,814	20,821
Total	<u>\$ 5,887,029</u>	<u>\$ 398,100</u>

C. General Obligations Bonds. The City has issued general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities related to both general and proprietary activities. All general obligation bonds are backed by the full faith, credit and taxing power of the City. Principal and interest requirements are appropriated when due.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

General obligation bonds outstanding at June 30, 2008 are as follows:

	Interest Rates	Date Issued	Date Series Matures	Amount of Original Issue	Balance Outstanding at June 30, 2008
Government Activities:					
Street, sidewalk & storm drainage, Series 1993A	5.50-5.25%	7/1/1993	2/1/2013	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 440,000
Street, sidewalk & storm drainage, Series 1993B	5.00-5.25	7/1/1993	2/1/2013	500,000	180,000
General obligation refunding bonds, Series 1993C	4.00-4.80	7/1/1993	6/1/2008	10,305,000	-
General obligation refunding bonds, Series 1999	4.00-4.20	2/9/1999	6/1/2012	4,952,360	1,094,595
General obligation refunding bonds, Series 2000	4.75-5.00	12/1/2000	12/1/2020	1,970,000	1,270,000
Total government activities					<u>2,984,595</u>
Business-type Activities					
Water - 1995	5.40-6.40	6/1/1995	6/1/2011	3,000,000	1,050,000
Water - 1999	4.00-4.20	2/9/1999	6/1/2012	12,217,640	2,700,405
Total Business-type Activities					<u>3,750,405</u>
Total General Obligation Bonds					6,735,000
Premium on bonds					16,051
Total General Obligation Bonds and Premium on bonds					<u>\$ 6,751,051</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for general obligation bonds are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Governmental Activities		Business type Activities	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2009	\$ 706,006	\$ 136,935	\$ 1,348,994	\$ 163,015
2010	626,593	106,594	1,403,407	107,554
2011	422,480	78,804	937,520	46,191
2012	269,516	59,145	60,484	2,540
2013	190,000	45,675	-	-
2014-2018	500,000	130,000	-	-
2019-2021	270,000	18,750	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 2,984,595</u>	<u>\$ 575,903</u>	<u>\$ 3,750,405</u>	<u>\$ 319,300</u>

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

D. Revenue Bonds/Advance Refunding. The City has advance refunded \$42,960,000 in Water Revenue Bonds, Series 1996 and 2001 by placing the proceeds of new bonds (Series 2005) in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, neither the trust account assets nor the liabilities for the defeased bonds are included in the City's financial statements. In August 2006, a payment of \$30,801,533 effectively retired the Series 1996 debt. As of June 30, 2008, the outstanding balance of the defeased 2001 issue was \$11,140,000.

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for Series 2005 revenue bonds are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2009	\$ 1,480,000	\$ 1,815,488	\$ 3,295,488
2010	1,535,000	1,762,725	3,297,725
2011	1,580,000	1,708,212	3,288,212
2012	1,640,000	1,647,762	3,287,762
2013-2017	9,310,000	7,072,481	16,382,481
2018-2022	11,820,000	4,479,750	16,299,750
2023-2026	11,780,000	1,213,750	12,993,750
Total	<u>\$ 39,145,000</u>	<u>\$ 19,700,168</u>	<u>\$ 58,845,168</u>

The City has pledged future water customer revenues, net of specified operating expenses to repay \$41,800,000 in Water System Revenue Bonds issued in December 2005. Proceeds from the bonds provided financing for the replacement of an antiquated pipe system. The bonds are payable solely from water customer new revenue and are payable through 2025. The total principal and interest remaining to be paid on the bonds is \$58,845,168.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for series 2007 revenue bonds are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2009	\$ 640,000	\$ 2,013,385	\$ 2,653,385
2010	945,000	1,704,725	2,649,725
2011	985,000	1,666,125	2,651,125
2012	1,025,000	1,625,925	2,650,925
2013	1,065,000	1,584,125	2,649,125
2014-2018	6,025,000	7,231,026	13,256,026
2019-2023	7,390,000	5,869,312	13,259,312
Thereafter	20,950,000	5,559,625	26,509,625
Total	<u>\$ 39,025,000</u>	<u>\$ 27,254,248</u>	<u>\$ 66,279,248</u>

The City has pledged future water customer revenues, net of specified operating expenses to repay \$39,025,000 in Water System Revenue Bonds issued in December 2007. Proceeds from the bonds provided financing for the replacement of an antiquated pipe system. The bonds are payable solely from water customer new revenue and are payable through 2032. The total principal and interest remaining to be paid on the bonds is \$66,279,248.

- E. State Water Bond Loan.** In 1998, the City received a \$3,000,000 loan from the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources for capital construction to the water system. The loan bears interest at 5.3 percent and is payable in equal annual amounts of \$150,000 over the next 20 years. The outstanding balance at June 30, 2007 was \$1,350,000.
- F. Due to Other Governmental Units.** The City also owes \$885,000 on outstanding “Section 108” loans.
- G. Estimated Claims Incurred But Not Reported.** The City is self-insured for workers compensation, fringe benefits and certain general liability and casualty risks. The City’s Third Party Administrators have estimated the City’s liability for claims incurred but not reported as of June 30, 2008. The current year estimate was within \$10,000 of the prior year estimate; therefore, the liability was not adjusted.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

H. Changes in Long Term Liabilities

	Beginning Balances	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balances	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities					
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 4,455,696	\$ -	\$ 1,471,100	\$ 2,984,596	\$ 706,006
Installment					
Financing Contracts	18,055,442	-	1,851,649	16,203,793	1,895,753
Installment					
Purchase Contracts	1,281,010	5,000,000	393,981	5,887,029	1,286,927
Due To Other					
Governments	1,060,000	-	175,000	885,000	180,000
Accrued Vacation Payable	3,576,404	2,991,899	2,508,889	4,059,414	2,672,411
Unfunded Pension					
Obligations	875,105	361,619	295,051	941,673	-
Total Governmental					
Activities	<u>\$ 29,303,657</u>	<u>\$ 8,353,518</u>	<u>\$ 6,695,670</u>	<u>\$ 30,961,505</u>	<u>\$ 6,741,097</u>

Accrued payable and unfunded pension obligations have typically been liquidated by the general fund.

	Beginning Balances	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balances	Due Within One Year
Business-Type Activities					
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 5,124,303	\$ -	\$ 1,373,899	\$ 3,750,404	\$ 1,348,994
Revenue Bonds	40,580,000	39,025,000	1,435,000	78,170,000	2,120,000
Installment Financing Contracts	742,000	-	613,000	129,000	43,000
State Water Bond Loan	1,500,000	-	150,000	1,350,000	150,000
Accrued Vacation Payable	541,223	383,508	304,139	620,592	620,592
Unamortized Bond Proceeds	1,577,980	410,881	85,418	1,903,443	-
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 50,065,506</u>	<u>\$ 39,819,389</u>	<u>\$ 3,961,456</u>	<u>\$ 85,923,439</u>	<u>\$ 4,282,586</u>

I. DEBT MARGIN. The City is subject to the Local Government Bond Act of North Carolina, which limits the amount of net bonded debt the City may have outstanding to 8 percent of the appraised value of property subject to taxation. At June 30, 2008 such statutory limit for the City was approximately \$801,185,000 providing a legal debt margin of approximately \$794,450,000.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

NOTE 7 – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities at year-end consisted of the following:

	General Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Accrual Adjustments	Governmental Activities	Business- Type Activities
Due to vendors	\$ 831,574	\$ 192,353	\$ 4,300	\$ 1,028,227	\$ 6,885,561
Due to other Governments	-	-	-	-	2,824,164
Salaries and Benefits	1,914,811	16,052	28,134	1,958,997	404,514
Total	<u>\$ 2,746,385</u>	<u>\$ 208,405</u>	<u>\$ 32,434</u>	<u>\$ 2,987,224</u>	<u>\$ 10,114,239</u>

NOTE 8 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The City of Asheville, by nature of its various operations, is exposed to numerous risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions on behalf of employees, elected officials, public officials, and appointed members of boards and commissions; injuries to employees; and a variety of losses stemming from natural disasters and perils.

The City has determined that it is in its best interest to establish a self-insurance program for certain general liability and casualty risks, fringe benefits and its workers' compensation obligations. Revenues and expenses for this program are recorded in the Risk and Benefits Management Fund Division of the General Fund.

For all of its self-insured retention programs, the City retains the services of outside third party administrators for the professional management and adjustment of claims.

The City is further protected by the placement of a \$15,000,000 excess-only liability program across the liability lines under the contract. The City also insures its real and personal property holdings, including its dams, for a total of \$240,000,000 in assets. Coverages include sub-limits for flood and earthquake. Because the City is in an area of the State that has been mapped and designated an "A" area (an area close to a river, lake or stream) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the City is eligible to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP). However, due to its self-insurance coverage, the City chooses not to participate in the NFIP at this time.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

The City of Asheville is also self-insured as provided under North Carolina General Statutes for Workers Compensation and Employer Liability. The City retains out-of-pocket losses for \$350,000 on specific claims and an aggregate loss fund of \$3,600,000 over a three-year period.

The City carries a \$3,000,000 specific and aggregate excess over these deductibles, with the aggregate excess attachment at 75 percent of the aggregate loss fund, over a three-year period.

The employee medical benefits program is funded through the City of Asheville Employee Health and Benefits Trust. The Trust is funded by both employee and employer contributions. Fringe benefits paid through this trust include group health, dental and some life insurance. The group health plan operates with a specific stop loss of \$95,000 and an aggregate stop loss of 125 percent of the estimated loss fund.

Settlement of claims in all classes of liability except the City's group health program has not exceeded the City's limits of retention in any of the past twelve years. The group health program, on an annual basis, has up to six cases that exceed specific stop loss and therefore recovers excess losses an average of ten times per year over the past ten years. Recoveries under stop loss coverage are regularly forwarded to the Health Benefits Trust Account. The City of Asheville has never exceeded an aggregate stop loss attachment for its group medical program for any year.

The following is a summary of changes in claims liability at June 30:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,961,696	\$ 2,961,696
Plus incurred claims		
& changes in estimates	11,980,736	8,209,427
Less claim payments	<u>(9,416,044)</u>	<u>(8,209,427)</u>
Ending balance	<u>\$ 5,526,388</u>	<u>\$ 2,961,696</u>

The ABC Board is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The ABC Board has commercial property, general liability, auto liability, workers' compensation and employee health coverage. The ABC Board also has liquor legal liability coverage.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

NOTE 9– PENSIONS PLAN OBLIGATIONS
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Employee Retirement Systems

A. North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.

Plan Description. The City of Asheville and the ABC Board contribute to the statewide Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of North Carolina. LGERS provides retirement and disability benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Article 3 of G.S. Chapter 128 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the North Carolina General Assembly. The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System is included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the State of North Carolina. The State's CAFR includes financial statements and required supplementary information for LGERS. That report may be obtained by writing to the Office of the State Controller, 1410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1410, or by calling (919) 981-5454.

Funding Policy. Plan members are required to contribute six percent of their annual covered salary. The City and the ABC Board are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. For the City, the current rate for employees not engaged in law enforcement and for law enforcement officers is 4.80 percent and 4.86 percent, respectively, of annual covered payroll.

For the ABC Board, the current rate for employees not engaged in law enforcement and for law enforcement is 4.91 percent and 4.86 percent, respectively, of annual covered payroll.

The contribution requirements of members and of the City of Asheville and the ABC Board are established and may be amended by the North Carolina General Assembly. The City's contributions to LGERS for the years ended June 30, 2008, 2007, and 2006 were \$2,250,656, \$1,917,757 and \$1,780,170 respectively.

The ABC Board's contributions to LGERS for the years ended June 30, 2008, 2007, and 2006 were \$84,689, \$89,203 and \$93,099, respectively. The contributions made by the City and the ABC Board equaled the required contributions for each year.

In order to meet its statutory obligations for a death benefit under NCLGERS, the City of Asheville opts to provide a death benefit through a group term life insurance program, which is provided on a non-contributory basis to all members of the retirement system after 30 days of employment. The benefit pays the designated beneficiary an amount equal to one time the annual salary based on rate of pay at the time of death. The plan also provides an accidental death and dismemberment feature of two time's annual salary in the event of death by a covered member.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

B. Law Enforcement Officers Special Separation Allowance

1. Description

The City and the ABC Board administer a public employee retirement system (the "Separation Allowance"), a single-employer defined benefit pension plan that provides retirement benefits to the City's qualified sworn law enforcement officers. The Separation Allowance is equal to .85 percent of the annual equivalent of the base rate of compensation most recently applicable to the officer for each year of creditable service. The retirement benefits are not subject to any increases in salary or retirement allowances that may be authorized by the General Assembly. Article 12D of G.S. Chapter 143 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the North Carolina General Assembly. Separate Financial Statements are not issued for the Plan.

All full-time law enforcement officers of the City and the ABC Board are covered by the Separation Allowance. At December 31, 2007, the Separation Allowance's membership consisted of:

	<u>City</u>	<u>ABC Board</u>
Retirees receiving benefits	18	-
Active plan members	<u>211</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>230</u>	<u>2</u>

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting. The City and the ABC Board have chosen to fund the Separation Allowance on a pay as you go basis. For the City, pension expenditures are made from the General Fund, which is maintained on the modified accrual basis of accounting. The financial statements of the ABC Board are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Benefits are recognized as expenses when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan. Administrative expenses are recognized when incurred.

Method Used to Value Investments. No funds are set aside to pay benefits and administration costs. These expenditures are paid as they come due.

3. Contributions

The City is required by Article 12D of G.S. Chapter 143 to provide these retirement benefits and has chosen to fund the benefit payments on a pay as you go basis through appropriations made in the General Fund operating budget. The City and ABC Board's obligation to contribute to this plan is established and may be amended by the North Carolina General Assembly. There were

CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2008

no contributions made by employees of the City or the ABC Board. The ABC Board is required by Article 12D of G.S. Chapter 143 to provide these retirement benefits and has chosen to pay benefits and administration costs on a pay-as-you-go basis. For the current year the ABC Board was not required to pay any benefits. The ABC Board has chosen not to have an actuarial study performed because the liability is considered to be immaterial.

The annual required contribution for the current year was determined as part of the December 31, 2007 actuarial valuation using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method. The actuarial assumptions included (a) 7.25 percent investment rate of return (net of administrative expenses); (b) projected salary increases of 4.5 to 12.3 percent per year and (c) level dollar closed amortization period with 24 years remaining. Both (a) and (b) included an inflation component of 3.75 percent. The assumptions did not include post-retirement benefit increases.

Annual Pension Cost and Net Pension Obligation. The City's annual pension cost and net pension obligation to the Separation Allowance for the current year were as follows:

Annual required contribution	\$ 351,948
Interest on net pension obligation	63,445
Adjustment to annual required contribution	(53,774)
Annual pension cost	<u>361,619</u>
Contributions made	<u>295,051</u>
Increase in net pension obligation	66,568
Net pension obligation beginning of year	<u>875,105</u>
Net pension obligation end of year	<u><u>\$ 941,673</u></u>

Three-Year Trend Information:

Fiscal Year Ended	Annual Pension Cost (APC)	Percentage of APC Contributed	Net Pension Obligation
6/30/2006	\$ 341,109	73.04%	\$ 793,263
6/30/2007	335,589	75.61	875,105
6/30/2008	361,619	81.59	941,673

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4. Funded Status and Funding Progress

As of December 31, 2007 the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was not funded. The actuarial accrued liability for benefits and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) was \$3,897,517. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$9,360,211, and the ratio of the UAAL to the covered payroll was 41.64 percent.

The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets are increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liability for benefits.

C. Law Enforcement Officers Supplemental Retirement Income Plan and Special Separation Allowance

401(k) Retirement Plan

The City and the ABC Board contribute to the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan (Plan), a section 401(k) defined contribution pension plan administered by the Department of State Treasurer and a Board of Trustees. The Plan provides retirement benefits to law enforcement officers employed by the City and the ABC Board. Article 5 of G.S. Chapter 135 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefits provisions to the North Carolina Assembly. The Supplemental Retirement Income Plan for Law Enforcement Officers is included in the Comprehensive Annual financial Report (CAFR) for the State of North Carolina. The State's CAFR includes the pension trust fund financial statements for the Internal revenue Code Section 401(k) plan that includes the Supplemental retirement Income Plan for Law Enforcement Officers. That report may be obtained by writing to the office of the State Controller, 1410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1410, or by calling (919) 981-5454.

Funding Policy: Article 12E of G.S. Chapter 143 requires the City and the ABC Board to contribute each month an amount equal to five percent of each officer's salary and all amounts collected are vested immediately. In addition to the required contribution for law enforcement officers, the City makes a monthly contribution equal to four percent of non-police employees' salary. Also, law enforcement officers and non-police employees of the City may make voluntary contributions to the Plan.

The City contribution for law enforcement officers for the year ended June 30, 2008 was \$471,871 and the officers' voluntary contributions were approximately \$170,831. The City's contribution for non-police personnel was \$1,862,581 with the voluntary contributions of approximately \$1,058,168. The ABC Board's required contribution was \$5,074.

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D. Other Post-employment Benefits

The City's retirees can continue their health insurance coverage at the City's group rates until age 65. The City does not contribute to retirees' coverage.

NOTE 10 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

A. Grant Revenues - The City receives amounts from federal, state, and local government agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds under these programs is subject to audit in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 *Audit of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations and the State Single Audit Implementation Act*. The City expects the amount, if any, of expenditures that may be disallowed by the granting agencies as a result of these audits to be immaterial.

B. Claims and Litigation - The City is a defendant in other various lawsuits. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, it is the opinion of the City's attorney and management that the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the City.

C. Limited Obligation Agreements – On June 1, 1991, the City entered into an installment purchase contract with Asheville-Buncombe Development Corporation (ABDC) for the purpose of financing municipal facilities construction projects. As of January 1, 1992, all ABDC rights and obligations under that contract were assigned to Asheville Public Financing Corporation (APFC). Effective November 1, 1997, the City executed Amendment Number One to the Installment Purchase Contract, with APFC, to provide conduit funding of the construction of a high tech flex building by Biltmore Farms and the renovation of the Grove Arcade as a public market place by the Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation. The contract was funded by the execution and delivery of \$5,515,000 of Taxable Certificates of Participation, Series 1997C. The Certificates bear interest at variable rates as determined monthly (monthly interest rate is equal to the one-month LIBOR published in the Wall Street Journal the first business day of each month, rounded up to the nearest 1/16th plus 59 basis points) with various maturity dates through the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. The average interest rate from the date of initial execution and delivery through June 30, 2008 was 5.80 percent. The total amount of the certificates will be reimbursed to the City by the above organizations. The total amount of the certificates outstanding and amount owed the City at June 30, 2008 was \$1,845,000 and \$1,959,132, respectively.

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The Contract does not directly or indirectly or contingently obligate the City to make any payments beyond those appropriated in the year in which this contract is in effect.

D. Water Agreement – In late June 2005, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted two local acts that had a direct impact on the City’s operation of the Water System (NC Session Laws 2005-139 and 140; also known as Sullivan Acts 2 and 3). The provisions thereof require that: (a) the City provide water to users in the County, (b) rates for water customers in the County not exceed the rates for comparable customers in the City, (c) revenues of the Water System available after payment of expenses not be transferred for any City purpose not related to the Water System and (d) water line extensions are required if capacity exists. In August 2005, The City filed suit against the State alleging that the 2005 local acts along with the original 1933 Sullivan

Act are unconstitutional as local acts (1) regulating trade, (2) relating to health and sanitation and (3) because they treat the City of Asheville unfairly with respect to how it can operate the water system. The County intervened in the suit and in January, 2007, the Wake County Superior Court heard arguments and found for the State and the County. The City has an appeal pending in the North Carolina Court of Appeals. In August of 2008, the Court of Appeals affirmed the Superior Court. The City is now seeking review in the N.C. Supreme Court.

E. Lease Management – In 2007, the City entered into a lease with the Trust for Public Land (the Trust) for use of park facilities. The agreement calls for the City to annually appropriate \$1,360,877, \$899,666 and \$339,457 during fiscal years ending 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. The Trust is committed to use “reasonable effort” to raise funds to meet the City’s obligation so that the City could only be required to pay the difference between the base rent and the actual amount raised by the Trust plus interest as “additional rent.” This has been estimated at \$137,431 total for the three year life of the contract.

NOTE 11– STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Technical budgetary omission – During the year, council authorized the creation of an internal service fund to account for the City’s risk management activities. The budget was adopted for the new fund; however, transfer of the claims payment accounts from the General Fund were inadvertently omitted. As a result, transfers from the General fund to other funds exceeded the budgeted amount by \$6,735,930.

B. Deficit net assets – Liabilities exceeded assets in the festivals fund creating a negative net assets of \$1,448,596. The negative net assets amount is caused by shortfalls in revenues generated from festivals and is expected to be reduced. More in depth management review and additional controls over spending have been implemented.